



# Drought Information Statement for MONTANA

Valid: April 2, 2026

Issued By: NWS Great Falls, NWS Missoula, NWS Glasgow, NWS Billings  
Contact Information:

- This product will be updated, May 2026, or sooner, if drought conditions change, significantly.
  - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
  - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/TFX/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- 
- D3 - Extreme Drought Conditions continue across a portion of central Montana.





# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link: [Latest Montana U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

## U.S. Drought Monitor Montana

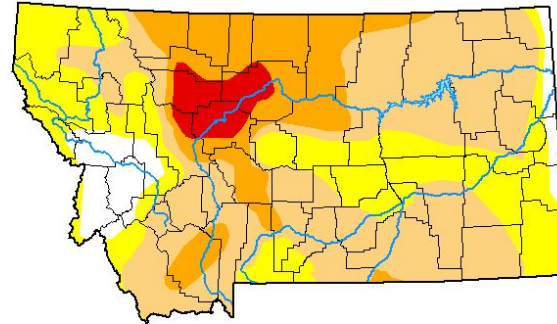
March 31, 2026

(Released Thursday, Apr. 2, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

### • Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Portion of central MT
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Portions of northern, central & southern MT
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Large portions of the state
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Most of the remaining areas of The Treasure State



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	6.49	93.51	65.58	21.19	3.96	0.00
Last Week 03-24-2026	7.57	92.43	66.70	18.30	3.96	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-30-2025	48.41	51.59	24.71	9.75	1.66	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	48.61	51.39	19.79	8.08	1.46	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	27.06	72.94	40.74	31.81	8.55	0.00
One Year Ago 04-01-2025	36.81	63.19	35.18	12.66	1.72	0.00

#### Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

#### Author:

David Simeral  
Western Regional Climate Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

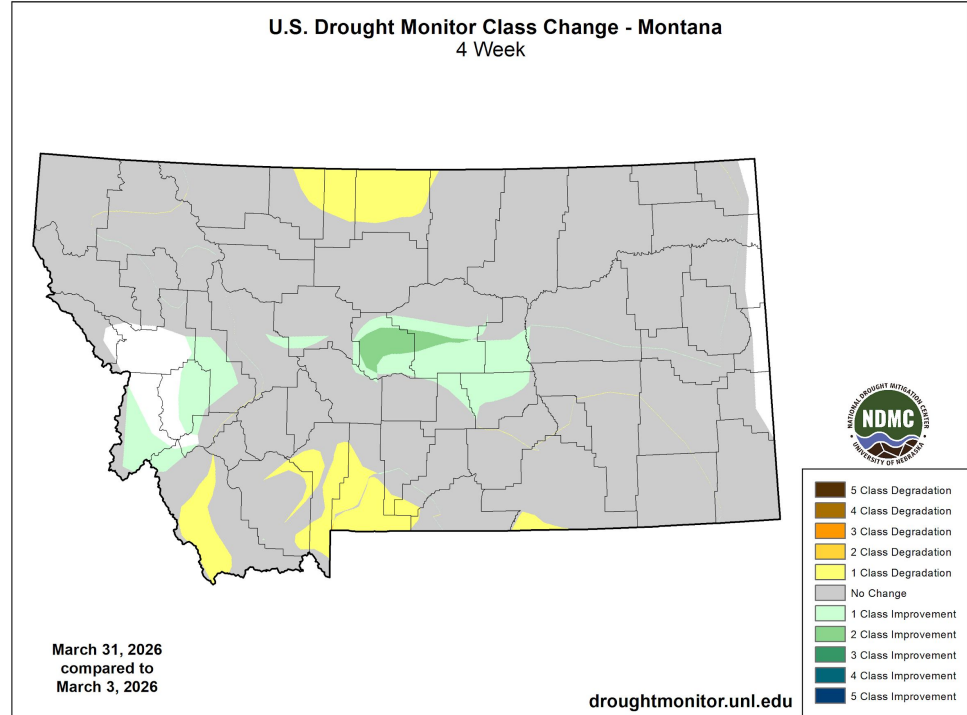
National Weather Service  
Great Falls, Montana



# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link: [Montana 4-week Change Map](#)

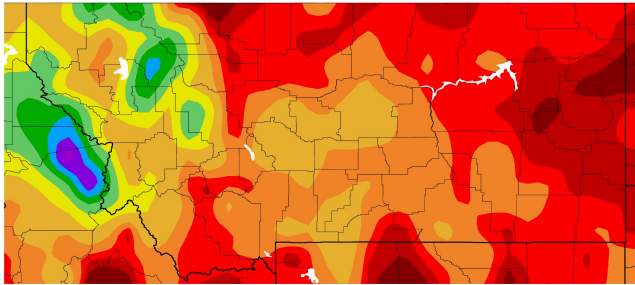
- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change
  - **Drought Worsened:** Across areas of northern and southern MT
  - **No Change:** Most of the state
  - **Drought Improved:** Portions of western, central and into eastern MT





# Precipitation

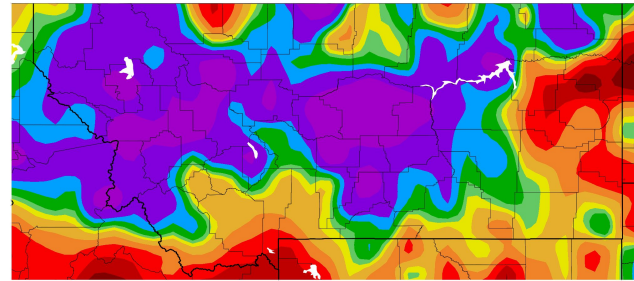
Precipitation (in)  
3/3/2026 – 4/1/2026



Generated 4/2/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
3/3/2026 – 4/1/2026



Generated 4/2/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

- **Precipitation (in):** During the past month, some of the mountains of northwestern MT have received as much as 6.0” to 10.0” of precipitation with higher amounts at the highest elevations, while the rest of the state has received less than 4.0” of precipitation. Some areas have received less than a trace of moisture.
- **Percent of Normal Precipitation (%):** Large portions of the state have received above normal precipitation, with areas of the state receiving below normal to much below normal precipitation.

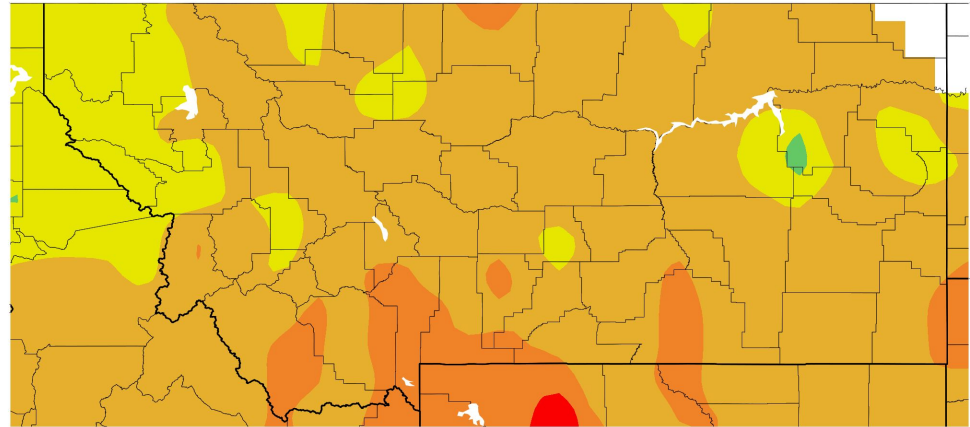




# Temperature

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
3/3/2026 – 4/1/2026

- Generally, the state of MT recorded warmer than normal temperatures, during the past month, with some areas reporting temperatures of more than 8 degrees above normal, for this period.



Generated 4/2/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services



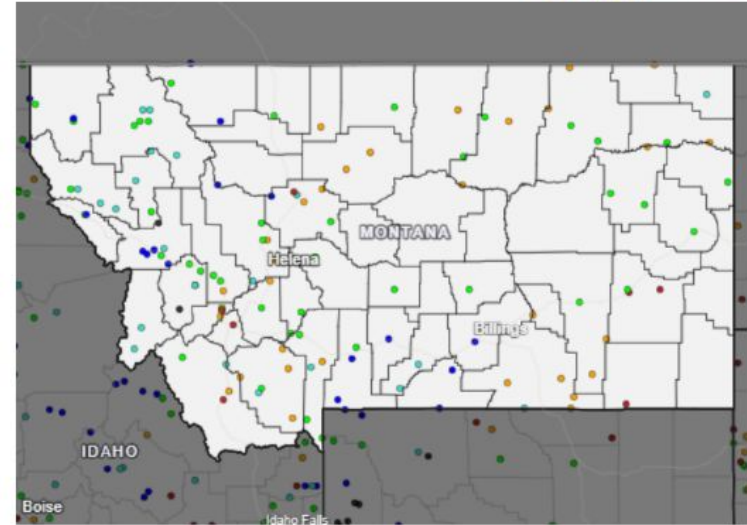


# Hydrologic Conditions

Link: [1-Day Average Streamflow Compared to Historical](#)

- **Below Normal:** Watersheds of southwestern, central and eastern MT, are experiencing streamflow in the below normal to much below normal range.
- **Normal:** Some gage points across the state are reporting streamflow within normal range.
- **Above Normal:** Some gage points across the state are reporting streamflow in the above to much above normal range. Northwestern to west central MT includes a few reports of high streamflow.

## 1-Day Average Streamflow Conditions



Streamflow Conditions



This map shows 1-day average streamflow conditions for yesterday compared to historical conditions for the same day of the year. Both 1-day and historical streamflow values are calculated as mean discharge (cubic feet per second) over a 24-hour period. Only streamgages with 30 or more years of data are included in this map. Click on a streamgage to view current data from the U.S. Geological Survey. These streamflow data are provisional and subject to revision.

Source(s): U.S. Geological Survey  
Data Valid: 04/01/26

**Drought.gov**

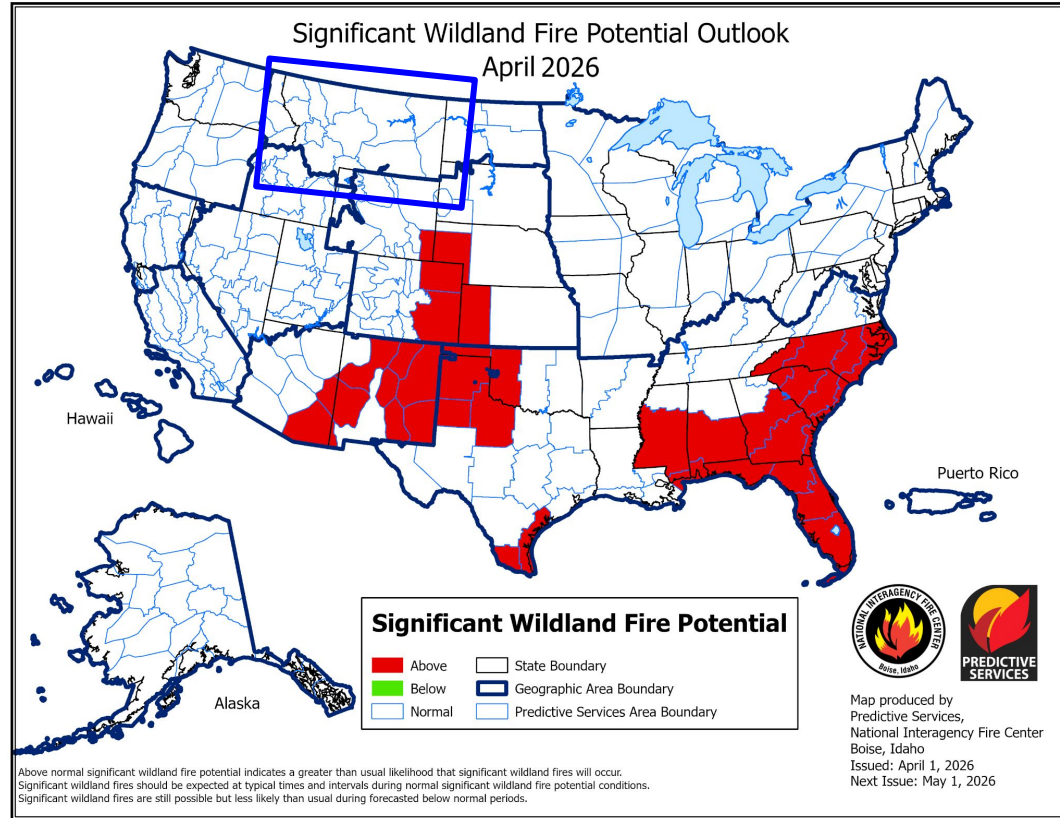




# Fire Hazard Impacts

Link: [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#)

- For the month of April 2026, the state of MT is included in an area of normal significant wildland fire potential conditions.
  - Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals.

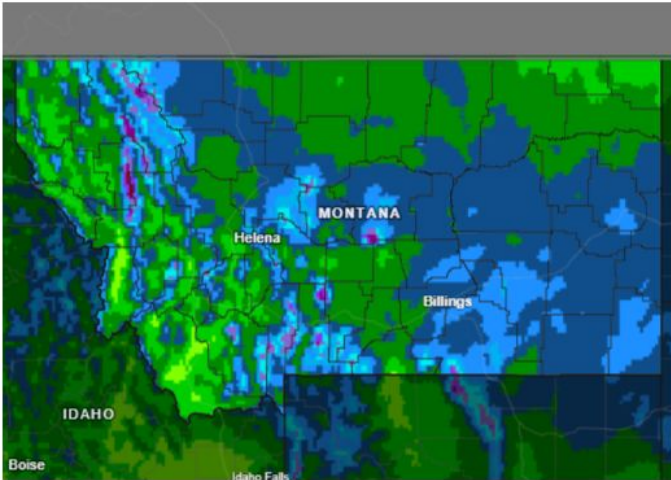




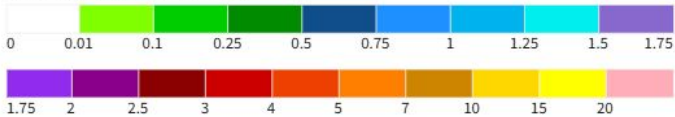
# 7-Day Precipitation Forecast

Link: [drought.gov/states/montana](https://drought.gov/states/montana)

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for April  
2-9, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



This map shows the amount of liquid precipitation (in inches) expected to fall over the next 7 days, according to the National Weather Service.

Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center  
Last Updated: 04/02/26

**Drought.gov**

- Through, April 9, 2026, the 7-Day Liquid Precipitation Forecast, includes high elevation moisture of about 1.0” to 2.5”, with greater amounts at the highest elevations.
- Low elevation forecast precipitation values, generally, range from 0.01” to 1.0”, for this 7-day period..





# 8 to 14-Day Hydrologic Hazards Outlook

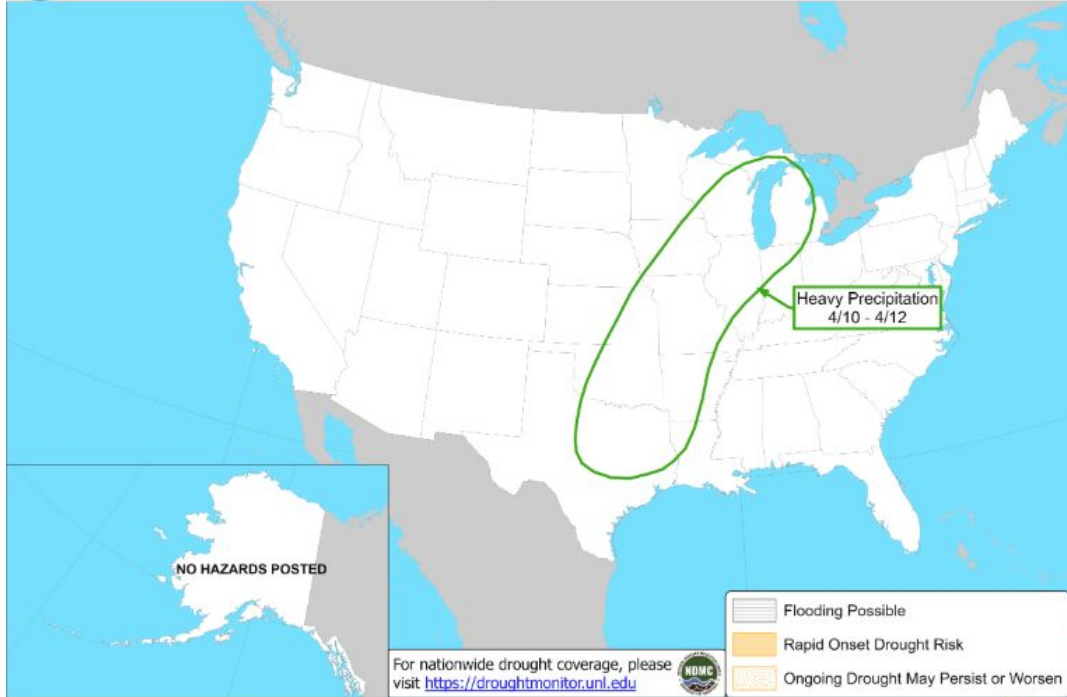
Link: [Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14-day Hazards Outlook](#)

- As of this time, no significant flooding or rapid onset drought hazards are forecast to occur across The Treasure State during the period of, April 10 - 16, 2026.



## Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook

Valid: April 10 - 16, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: April 2, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

Follow us:

[www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

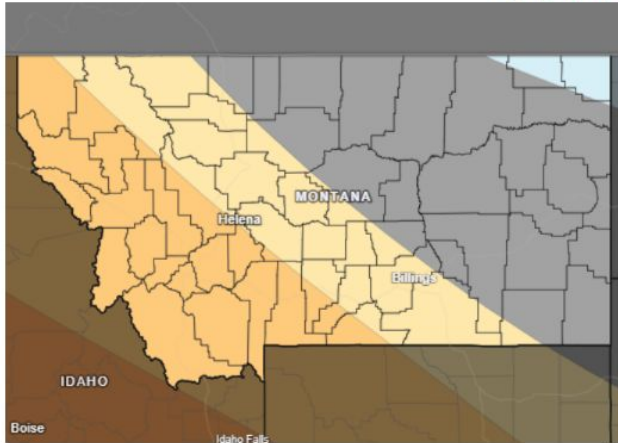
National Weather Service  
Great Falls, Montana



# 8 to 14-Day Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

Link: [drought.gov/states/montana](https://drought.gov/states/montana)

8-14 Day Temperature Outlook for April 9-15, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



■ Near-Normal Conditions

This map shows the probability (percent chance) of above-normal, near-normal, or below-normal temperature 8 to 14 days in the future.

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center  
Last Updated: 04/01/26

**Drought.gov**

The 8 to 14-Day Temperature Outlook shows a better chance for warmer than normal temperatures across the northwestern through south central portion of the state of MT, with the far northeastern corner of the state leaning toward cooler than normal temperatures, and the remainder of the state expecting near normal conditions.

The 8 to 14-Day Precipitation Outlook shows a better chance for near normal precipitation across the vast majority of the state, with the far southeastern corner of Montana leaning toward wetter than normal conditions.

8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook for April 9-15, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



■ Near-Normal Conditions

This map shows the probability (percent chance) of above-normal, near-normal, or below-normal precipitation 8 to 14 days in the future.

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center  
Last Updated: 04/01/26

**Drought.gov**





# Seasonal Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC Homepage](#)

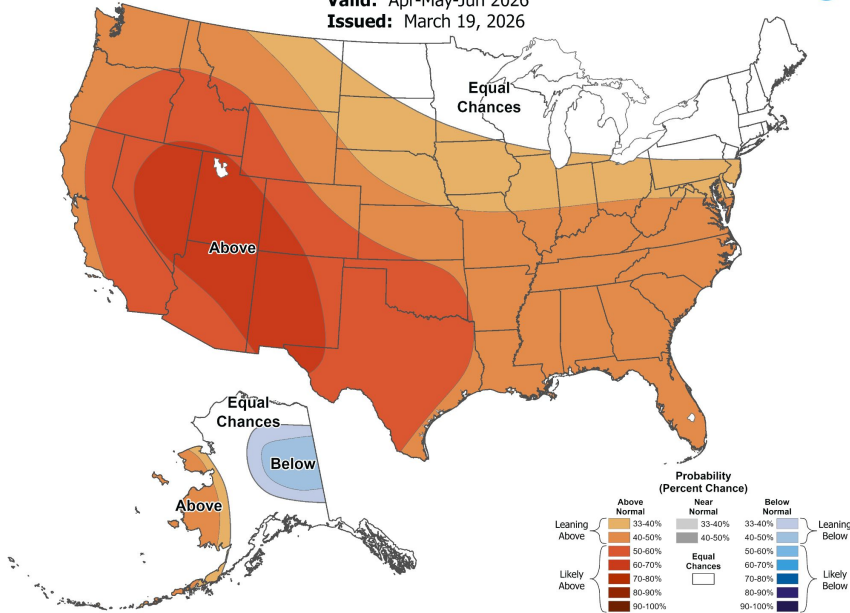
The Seasonal Temperature Outlook, generally, shows a better chance for warmer than normal temperatures across The Treasure State.

The Seasonal Precipitation Outlook shows better chances for below normal precipitation from northwestern through central and southern MT, with equal chances for above or below normal precipitation, for much of eastern MT.



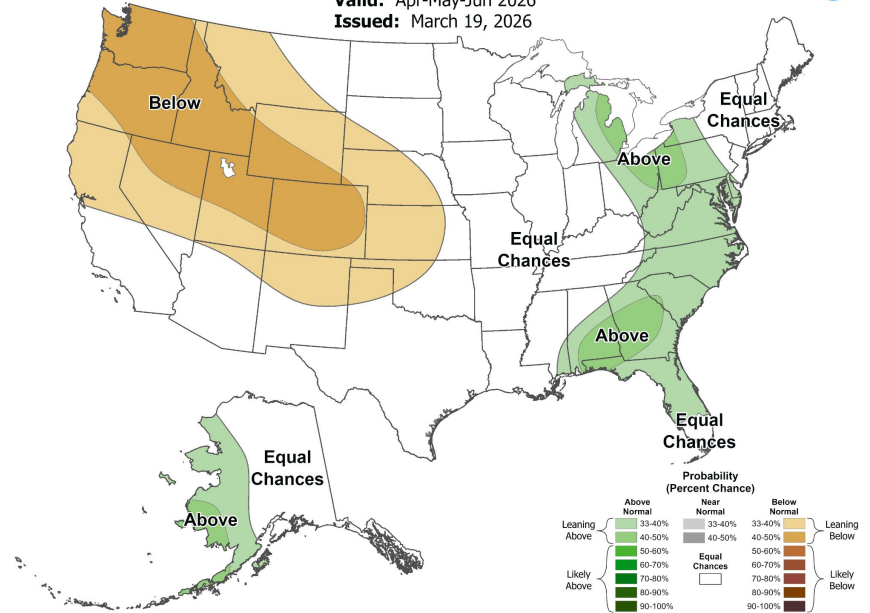
## Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Apr-May-Jun 2026  
Issued: March 19, 2026



## Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Apr-May-Jun 2026  
Issued: March 19, 2026





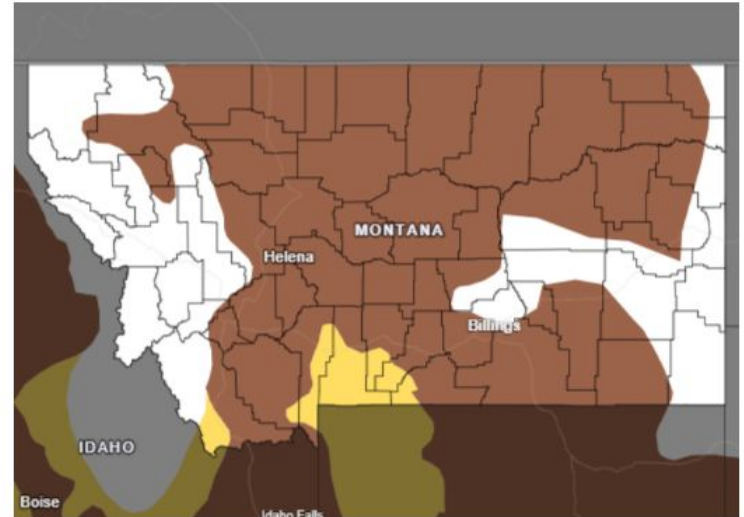
# Seasonal Drought Outlook

- **Persisting:** Most of the state of Montana
- **Developing:** Especially southern Montana

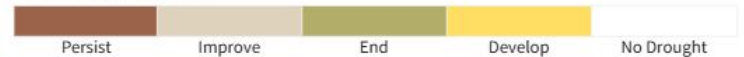
Please note: This map is updated once per month.

<https://www.drought.gov/states/montana>

## Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for March 31–June 30, 2026



### Drought Is Predicted To...



The Seasonal Drought Outlook predicts whether drought will develop, remain, improve, or be removed in the next 3 months or so.

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center  
Last Updated: 03/31/26

**Drought.gov**

Links to the latest:

- [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)





# Summary of Impacts

Links: Submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and View the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Mountain snowpack, generally, continues below normal for this time of year.

## Agricultural Impacts

- With portions of the state continuing in Severe (D2) to Extreme (D3) Drought Intensity Levels, impacts to crops and grasslands are possible.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire prevention efforts continue important.

## Other Impacts & Messaging

- Elevated drought conditions can impact outdoor recreation and tourism as we move into spring activities.

## Mitigation Actions

- Low snowpack does not equate to an absence of flooding. Flooding is possible at any time until the snow melts out of the mountains.

